million tonnes which is 34.56 million tonnes more than the production in 2004-05. The estimated sugar production in the current sugar season is 181.67 lakh tonnes as against 130.00 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 sugar season.

(c) During the year 2005-06 (upto February, 2006) the wholesale price of non-levy sugar in the four metropolitan cities ranged between Rs. 1710 to Rs. 2090 per quintal as against Rs. 1560 to Rs. 2050 per quintal during 2004-05.

Infrastructure status to FPI Sector

*200. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to confer the status of infrastructure category for food processing and agri business sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Several suggestions have been made for the promotion of food processing and agri-business sector to realize Vision-2015. Conferring the status of infrastructure on food processing and agri business sector, is one of such suggestions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Organic manures

†1174. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of excessive quantity of chemical fertilizers and plant protective chemicals for more production from the advanced varieties

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in agriculture sector in the country, is adversely affecting human health on one hand and on the other fertility of the agriculture land;

(b) whether the manure invented by the scientists of National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and Bovine Science Research Centre, Nagpur, with the help of ancient Indian Book "Vishwa Vallabha" has been patented by America;

(c) whether expected results could not be achieved in respect of organic manures; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. In general, there is no excessive use of fertilizers in India even in the intensive cropping systems. Likewise, average pesticide consumption of around 450g/ha in India is far below the consumption in other developed/developing countries. Such levels of use are not generally expected to affect human health and soil fertility. However, there are a few instances of falling organic carbon content and deficiencies of certain major and micro nutrients in some parts of the ocuntry, especially in rice-wheat belt of Indo-gangetic plains due to continuous imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without addition of organic manures.

(b) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India has filed a patent application, in USA, India and other countries; regarding a synergistic combination of bovine urine, neem and garlic. This combination has ability to promote plant growth along with pesticide and anti-microbial abilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has standardized improved tehnologies to prepare eco-friendly organic manures like enriched compost/FYM, phosphocompost, vermi compost from various biodegradable organic wastes. Farmers' trainings and demonstrations

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are also being arranged from time to time for large scale adoption by the farmers through various State Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes.

Production of mustard seeds

†1175. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of mustard (edible oilseeds) in Rabi crops is likely to be more during 2005-06 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is a fact that due to over production, genuine producers will be forced to sell their produce less than the minimum support price; and

(c) if not, the provision made by Government therefor alongwith the arrangements made to procure mustard at minimum support price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 2nd advance estiamtes of production for the current year the production of rapeseed & mustard in 2005-06 is estimated at 76.98 lakh tonnes which is 6.67 lakh tonnes lower than the production in 2004-05 which was 83.56 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds and pulses including mustard seeds through NAFED which is the Central nodal agency, at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)declared by the Government. Losses incurred by NAFED in undertaking procurement operations are fully borne by the Central Government.

During rabi 2005 crop season, NAFED procured a record quantity of 20.93 lakh tonnes mustard valuing approximately Rs. 3900 crore under PSS and helped the farmers in getting remunerative price for their produce.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.